

Christopher Blanchard, an army soldier from Citrus County, Florida, currently stationed in Ft. Eustis, Virginia. His parents Sheila and Tom Densmore reside in Inverness, Florida.

A graduate of Citrus County High School, Christopher enlisted in the Army in September, 1998. After attending basic training at Ft. Jackson in South Carolina, Christopher was assigned to Ft. Eustis for advanced training as an aircraft technician.

Following his training, Christopher was assigned to Ansbach, Germany, where he performed electrical work on army helicopters. As part of a peace-keeping mission in Kosovo, Christopher spent 6 months on the ground helping to keep the fragile peace accords in place.

Christopher was next stationed in Hawaii for 4 years, where he took part in missions to Bosnia and Afghanistan. Currently he is a senior instructor for the helicopter instructor's course at Ft. Eustis, training new recruits in helicopter maintenance and electric work.

Over the course of his service, Christopher has earned many medals and commendations, including five Army Commendation Medals, two Army Achievement Medals, an Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon, two NATO Medals, Aviation Badge, Air Assault Badge, and Driver/Mechanic Badge. In January 2008, Christopher will attend Warrant Officer Candidate School at Ft. Rucker, Alabama. Following the completion of his training, Christopher will be assigned to his next duty station as an Aviation Maintenance Officer.

Madam Speaker, it is soldiers like Christopher Blanchard who volunteer to protect the freedoms that all Americans hold dear to their hearts. While brave men and women like Christopher serve in the name of freedom and liberty, his family, friends, and loved ones should know that this Congress will never forget his sacrifice and commitment.

**RECOGNIZING ALEX DIERINGER
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT**

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alex Dieringer of Maryville, MO. Alex is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 75, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alex has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Alex has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Alex Dieringer for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING RONALD SHAW, CHAIRMAN OF PILOT PEN CORPORATION OF AMERICA, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many family, friends, colleagues and community leaders who have gathered to pay tribute to one of our most influential and successful business leaders, Ronald Shaw, as he celebrates his retirement from Pilot Pen Corporation of America after more than three decades of dedicated service.

When one thinks of industry leaders, Ron Shaw is a name that comes to mind immediately. If you know Ron, it is not difficult to believe that he began his career as a stand-up comedian—opening for the likes of Rosemary Clooney, Dean Martin, Connie Francis, and even Liberace. Ironically, it was through learning to “sell himself” that he developed his keen business sense. Knowing that the life of a stand-up comic was not conducive to his new found family life, Ron left the stage to, as he says, “get a real job.”

Joining Pilot Pen in 1975, the company has flourished under his leadership. In the three decades during which Ron has been with the company, sales have grown from \$1 million annually to nearly \$200 million. It has been through his vision and leadership that the company has continued to expand both in size and markets. Look around you and very shortly you will inevitably find one of their many products. From the pens we use every day to your child's Magna Doodle, Pilot Pen products are everywhere. It is no wonder that Ron is one of only six Americans to have served on the Board of Directors on any publicly held Japanese company.

From local companies such as Laticrete International, the Shubert Theater, and the University of New Haven to national organizations like the Anti-Defamation League, Larry King Cardiac Foundation, and the City of Hope National Medical Center, Ron has dedicated countless hours to industry and civic organizations focused on enriching the lives of our citizens. Ron has always wanted to make a difference in the lives of others—especially our young people. Inspiring our youth was the impetus behind the writing and publication of his book, “Pilot Your Life.” Wanting the book to serve as a career guide to college graduates, he hoped that in reading about his own experiences, they could learn from his mistakes and take advantage of some of the opportunities he did not. Ron has always held a strong belief in the American Dream—the opportunity to build your own business and make your own success—his parting advice in his book and a lesson that he certainly imparted to his own children, all of whom are small business owners today.

I have been fortunate to know Ron for many years and have always been grateful for his special friendship. For his many outstanding contributions, both professional and personal, I am pleased to join his wife, Phyllis, his children; Steven and his wife Carrie, Susan and her husband Michael, as well as Alan and his wife Nancy, his five grandchildren; Lauren,

Bryan, Stephanie, Jacob, and Yael; and all of those gathered this evening in extending my sincere thanks and heartfelt congratulations to Ronald Shaw as he celebrates his retirement. My very best wishes for many more years of health and happiness.

**IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
SUE WALTERS**

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Sue Walters, loving mother, grandmother, community activist, and dear friend and mentor to many. Her passing marks a great loss for her family and friends, and also for our entire Cleveland community, whom she served with the highest level of commitment, concern, integrity and honor.

Mrs. Walters worked tirelessly in support of the democratic process. Her involvement in several local campaigns, including my own, infused a vital level of energy throughout the process, and inspired everyone around her. “Susie,” as she was affectionately known by friends and co-workers, reflected an exceptional sense of humor, and her consistently sunny outlook naturally drew others to her—elevating the spirits of all of us.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Sue Walters, whose boundless love for life served as a source of inspiration and joy for everyone who knew her well. I extend my deepest condolences to her beloved husband, Thomas; her children, Michelle and Thomas; her grandchildren, Jill Marie and Anthony Thomas; and also to her extended family and many friends.

Mrs. Walters' immeasurable heart, sparkling personality and focus on social action has forever touched the lives of countless individuals, young and old, and her unbridled spirit and vital work will soar forever in the hearts of those who knew and loved her well, especially her family, friends and the people of Cleveland, Ohio.

**HONORING ANGELA MARIE
CERNICH OWENS OF INVERNESS,
FLORIDA**

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Specialist Angela Marie Cernich Owens, a soldier from Inverness, Florida currently serving in Iraq.

Born in Omaha, Nebraska, Angela moved to Citrus County at a young age. She attended Floral City Elementary and Citrus High, eventually graduating from Withlacoochee Technical School. An acclaimed golfer on her high school team, Angela received many trophies for her prowess on the golf course.

Sworn into the military on September 10, 2001, Angela has seen firsthand the changes in the military since September 11. Originally